

(j) (1) Nothing in this section or in any other federal or State law may preclude the MNCPPC from making a collective bargaining agreement with an exclusive representative that requires an employee, as a condition of employment, to pay a maintenance or service fee as a contribution towards the cost of the negotiation and administration of the agreement, in an amount not greater than the regular annual dues paid to the exclusive representative.

(2) Before the MNCPPC discharges an employee who fails to pay a maintenance or service fee, it shall give the employee:

- (i) Written notice of the delinquent payment; and
- (ii) Adequate time to correct the delinquency.

(3) If the MNCPPC and the employee are unable to resolve the fee issue, the issue shall be submitted to an umpire in accordance with the provisions of subsection (k) of this section.

(k) (1) Any charge that the MNCPPC, a public employee, or a labor organization has engaged in an unfair labor practice shall:

- (i) Be in writing;
- (ii) State concisely and simply the facts that are asserted or if the facts cannot be stated in detail, the issues that are involved; and
- (iii) Be served personally on the party alleged to have engaged in the violation within 180 days of the alleged violation.

(2) If the charging party and the charged party are unable to resolve the matter, the charge shall be submitted to an umpire selected according to the following rules:

(i) The [Commission] MNCPPC shall appoint the umpire from a list of 5 nominees agreed upon by the exclusive representative and the Executive Director of the [Commission] MNCPPC.

(ii) The umpire shall serve for 2 years and be eligible for reappointment.

(iii) 1. The fees and expenses of the umpire shall be paid as set forth by agreement of the parties.

2. Unless otherwise provided by agreement, the parties shall share equally the umpire's costs.

(iv) The umpire may not be otherwise employed by either the [Commission] MNCPPC or the exclusive representative.

(3) The power of the umpire is exclusive.

(4) The umpire may not require compliance with the technical rules of evidence.